spot decision as far as possible, association of representatives of Pensioners Associations and proper follow-up within a prescribed time-frame.

(c) and (d) Pension Adalats are held by the respective Ministries/Departments who monitor the progress of settlement of cases in such Adalats. No centralised information is maintained in this regard. The emphasis in Pension Adalats is to settle maximum number of cases on the spot. The holding of Pension Adalats by Ministries/Departments such as Railways, Defence, Posts and Tele-communications for the settlement of pensionary cases/ grievances is an on going process.

Recycling of disposable surgical items

*306. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Times of India (Delhi) of June 9, 1995 to the effect that recycling of disposable surgical items, *viz.* syringes and other items have become a thriving trade in the capital city of India;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether the disposal surgical items after recycling and repacking are being supplied to various hospitals and private clinics in Delhi and other parts of the country; whether Government have made any survey in this regard and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what steps Government have taken to check/stop this trade?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The report alleges inter alia that the disposable used syringes, drip bottles and urine bags are sold to the junk dealers; these are revealed and supplied. to pharmacies and drug stores near the basic health units and Government hospitals close to Delhi border.

(c) No such information has been received.

(d) Guidelines on control of Hospital acquired infection circulated to all States/ Union Territories, inter-alia, indicate procedure for the disposal of single use needles and single use syringes so as to avoid their recycling.

MBBS Doctors prescribing Homoeopathic Medicine

*307. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether MBBS qualified doctors enjoy the liberty to prescribe homoeopathic medicines to their patients with their consent in certain cases where such medicines are found to be more effective than allopathic ones for alleviating their sufferings without any after-effect; and

(b) whether the Medical Council of India has any authority to object to the use of homoeopathic medicines by these doctors in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) According to Section 15 (2) (b) of Homoeopathy Central Council Act, no person other than a practitioner of homoeopathy possessing a recognised medical qualification under the said act and enrolled on a State Register or the Central Register of homoeopathy, can practise homoeopathy.

Implementation of VRS in NAFIC

*308. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Voluntary